

Message Text

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IO/UNP:DMACUK (SUBS)
PM:CMARTHINSON (DRAFT)
EA:MEILAND (DRAFT)
AF:WCARROLL (DRAFT)
NEA:WGROSS (DRAFT)
ARA/RPL:JPARKER (SUBS)
ACDA/MA/IR:CCFLOWERREE (SUBS)
DOD/ISA:JKAUFMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: SSOD: MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING AND
LIMITATIONS (MER/L)

GENEVA FOR CCD DEL

1. SUMMARY. US WISHES TO PROMOTE APPROVAL OF AND REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION IN PILOT TEST OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING INSTRUMENT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AT UNSSOD. THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS ACTION ADDRESSEES EXPEDITIOUSLY TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT TOWARD THIS END. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND. UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS GROUPS IN 1974, 1976 AND 1977 EXAMINED ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING AND LIMITATION AND DEVELOPED A STANDARDIZED REPORTING INSTRUMENT FOR NATIONAL MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN MATRIX FORM. THE 1976 AND 1977 EXPERTS GROUPS REPORTS RECOMMENDED, INTEALIA, A FIELD TEST OR PILOT STUDY OF THE REPORTING INSTRUMENT IN WHICH A GROUP OF STATES WOULD FILL OUT THE MATRIX (1977 REPORT IS "REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS", REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, A/32/194 OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1977.)

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A WESTERN AMENDMENT TO SWEDISH-MEXICAN RESOLUTION 32/85 ON MER/L AT THE 32ND UNGA ENDORSED THE OBJECTIVE OF AN EFFECTIVE MER INSTRUMENT AND REQUESTED THE UNSYG TO ENQUIRE WHAT STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A PILOT TEST. AT THE SSOD FOURTH PREPCOM IN FEBRUARY, SWEDEN INSERTED LANGUAGE IN DRAFT ACTION PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY--

1) REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO ORGANIZE A PILOT TEST OF A SYSTEM FOR THE REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES BY STATES, DRAWING ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON A STANDARDIZED REPORTING INSTRUMENT BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (A/32/L94) WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF STATES REPRESENTING DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS AND, PREFERABLY, DIFFERENT MILITARY BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS;

2) FURTHER REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO APPOINT AN AD HOC PANEL OF BUDGETARY EXPERTS, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO GIVE GUIDANCE TO STATES SUPPLYING THE REQUIRED DATA, TO ANALYZE THE RESULTS

OF THE PILOT TEST, TO FURTHER REFINE THE SYSTEM AND TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LARGER-SCALE APPLICATION OF THE REPORTING INSTRUMENT;

3) FURTHER REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUBMIT A PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION. END QUOTE.

ALSO AT FOURTH PREPCOM, US REPRESENTATIVE (WEILER) ANNOUNCED US READINESS TO SUPPLY DATA FOR PILOT TEST. WE EXPECT OTHER WESTERN GROUP COUNTRIES (CANADA AND NETHERLANDS HAVE THUS FAR STEPPED FORWARD) TO PARTICIPATE. STRENGTH OF OPPOSITION TO A PILOT TEST WHICH EASTERN BLOC WILL MOUNT IS UNCLEAR. SWEDISH HOPE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT EASTERN BLOC WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK SSOD MANDATE IF SUBSTANTIAL LDC SUPPORT MATERIALIZES.

3. UNITED STATES WISHES TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT AT SSOD FOR INCLUSION OF PILOT TEST IN PROGRAM OF ACTION AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO SYG'S ENQUIRY OF JANUARY 4, 1978 TO ALL STATES RE PARTICIPATION. LDCS HAVE ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED UN RESOLUTIONS OF MER/L IN PAST BUT NONE HAS AS YET VOLUNTEERED TO COMPLETE REPORT. FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED ATTITUDE IS THAT REPORTING SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAJOR POWERS AND/OR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THIS WAS REFLECTED BY ABSTENTIONS ON WESTERN AMENDMENT AT 32ND UNGA.

4. ACTION ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF OBJECTIVES PARA 3. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS MAY BE USED.

THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT WILL HAVE BEFORE IT THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF REDUCING MILITARY BUDGETS. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND ARE NOT A NEAR TERM PROSPECT BUT REGARDS THEM AS OBJECTIVES WORTHY TO BE PURSUED.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE DATA WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF CONFIDENCE AMONG COUNTRIES AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AGREEMENTS HOLD THE PROMISE OF RELEASING RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EVERYWHERE, AND WE EXPECT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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WOULD SHARE IN THESE BENEFITS.

THE US BELIEVES THAT OTHER MAJOR POWERS WOULD ALSO BE MORE LIKELY TO PURSUE MEL IF THERE IS WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF A STANDARDIZED MER INSTRUMENT AND ACTUAL REPORTING TAKES PLACE. REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED MER PILOT STUDY IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THOSE OBJECTIVES.

IN PARTICULAR, LDC SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED PILOT STUDY WOULD BOTH GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHER MAJOR POWERS TO PARTICIPATE AND IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL MAJOR POWER MEL AGREEMENTS.

UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS GROUPS IN 1974, 1976 AND 1977 HAVE EXAMINED ISSUES RELATED TO MER/L AND DEVELOPED A STANDARDIZED REPORTING INSTRUMENT FOR NATIONAL MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN MATRIX FORM.

THE 1976 AND 1977 EXPERTS GROUPS RECOMMEND A FIELD TEST OR PILOT STUDY OF THE REPORTING INSTRUMENT IN WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF STATES WOULD FILL OUT THE MATRIX FORM.

THE 32ND UNGA IN RESOLUTION 32/85 ENDORSED ELABORATION OF AN EFFECTIVE MER INSTRUMENT AND INSTRUCTED THE SYG TO ENQUIRE WHICH STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A PILOT TEST AS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION; SWEDEN HAS PROPOSED LANGUAGE MANDATING A PILOT TEST IN THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION.

THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED AT THE SSOD FOURTH PREPCOM THAT IT WOULD SUBMIT ITS NATIONAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE DATA FOR THE FIELD TRIAL.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE PROVIDING DATA IN THE REQUESTED FORM
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SHOULD PROVE AN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TASK, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE EXPLORATORY AND PRELIMINARY NATURE OF THE PILOT TEST. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH MODEST OR LESS COMPLEX MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS MAY WELL FIND IT EASIER TO REPORT THAN DO THE MAJOR POWERS.

WE URGE GOVERNMENT OF (HOST COUNTRY) TO SUPPORT THE

PROPOSAL FOR A FIELD TRIAL AT THE SSOD, AND TO GIVE
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO
THE SYG'S INQUIRY ON PARTICIPATION (RESPONSE TO SYG
WAS REQUESTED BY APRIL 1).

5. FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AMONG ACTION ADDRESSEES VOTED
IN FAVOR OF WESTERN AMENDMENT AT 32ND UNGA REFERRED TO
IN PARAGRAPH 2:

BANGLADESH; MOROCCO; COSTA RICA; PHILLIPPINES; GHANA;
SINGAPORE; KENYA; THAILAND; LIBERIA

EMBASSIES MAY WISH TO ADD REFERENCE TO THIS VOTE TO
APPROACH. (OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES EXCEPT PERU AB-
STAINED ON WESTERN AMENDMENT BUT SUPPORTED FULL RES-
OLUTION.)

6. NIGERIA, PERU AND SRI LANKA HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
UN EXPERTS GROUPS ON MILITARY EXPENDITURES. EMBASSIES
MAY WISH TO ADD SUCH REFERENCE TO THEIR APPROACH.

7. FOR USUN; MISSION REQUESTED AT ITS DISCRETION TO
APPROACH OTHER LIKELY CANDIDATES ON BEHALF OF MER/L
IN CONTEXT OF SSOD PREPARATIONS. VANCE

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